

RUSSIAN RIVER CREEK STEWARDSHIP

DESCRIPTION:

- Program developed and implemented by the Sotoyome Resource Conservation District (SRCD)
- More than 95 percent of the Russian River watershed is privately owned, making collaboration with local landowners imperative for the success of restoration efforts within the watershed
- Community volunteers trained in monitoring techniques used to measure a variety of geomorphic, hydrologic, biological and chemical parameters
- Monitoring data collected allows for fulfillment of regulatory mandates, creation of a base of information to improve decision-making and project design, and can indicate where additional efforts are needed
- Volunteer monitoring also offers the community a way to learn about their watershed
- Once restoration priorities have been identified, SRCD works with landowners to identify, design and implement restoration projects, including invasive species removal and riparian revegetation; sediment reduction and erosion control; livestock exclusionary fencing with the development of off-creek water sources; and in-stream habitat improvements
- Physical, chemical and biological conditions of seven Russian River tributaries, a total of approximately 83 miles of blue line stream, are evaluated annually through the program
- Over the past four years, approximately 300 landowners and residents of the Russian River watershed have attended Creek Stewardship Program trainings, meet-

PROJECT GOAL

Collaborate with local landowners and residents to monitor and restore selected tributaries within the Russian River watershed.

ings and creek walks

- Other educational events and workshops have attracted an additional 200 participants

PARTNERSHIPS:

- California Department of Fish and Game
- California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
- California State Parks
- City of Santa Rosa
- County of Sonoma Permit and Resource Management Department
- Other Resource Conservation Districts (Gold Ridge and Mendocino County)
- Private landowners and community members
- Sonoma County Water Agency
- University of California Cooperative Extension



Volunteer monitors conducting a pebble count to analyze channel substrate sizes and fine sediment embeddedness levels

Macroinvertebrate sampling on Matanzas Creek



Volunteers measuring canopy coverage over the Hobson Creek channel